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Idaho National Laboratory Wins A 2012 R&D 100 Award

IDAHO FALLS -- Idaho National Laboratory researchers earned one R&D 100 Award for a technology nominated during the 2012 international competition hosted by R&D Magazine.

The winning technology is a research breakthrough that offers potential short-term and long-term solutions to expanding the use and availability of the radio frequency spectrum which delivers mobile phone services.

"INL researchers continue to invent important technologies adding another of these international awards this year," said David Hill, INL deputy director for Science & Technology. "Our researchers are highly dedicated and skilled professionals who continue to demonstrate innovative thinking in earning this type of international recognition. We are very proud of them and the research conducted at the laboratory."

With this announcement, INL has received a total of 47 R&D 100 Awards since 1986.

"Congratulations to this year's R&D 100 award winners," said Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "The research and development at the Department of Energy's laboratories continues to help the nation meet our energy challenges, strengthen our national security and improve our economic competitiveness."

This year's winning technology is called Wireless Spectrum Communications (WSComm), which delivers a unique communication control channel breakthrough that narrows an existing technology gap in current radio frequency management of voice, video and data communications. It offers a patent-pending, robust solution that is spectrum-aware, spectrum-agile, and capable of coexisting with other services. This technology anticipates future requirements, fills an existing technology void, potentially expands the use of available radio spectrum, and offers secure, nearly undetectable control communication channels for use in public safety and national defense.

WSComm is an innovative wireless technology platform based on a spectrum-agile algorithm that enables robust communications at or near the radio frequency noise-floor with maximum spectrum efficiency. More information is available at www.inl.gov/wscomm.

Widely recognized as the "Oscars of Innovation," the annual R&D 100 Awards is celebrating 50 years in 2012. These awards identify the 100 most significant, newly introduced research and development advances. Winning one of the R&D 100 Awards provides a mark of excellence known to industry, government and academia as proof that the product is one of the most innovative ideas of the year, nationally and internationally.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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